

Congressman Mike Pence appeared on the *MSNBC* program "Morning Joe" and discussed the prospects of health care reform, noting that inaction was not an option, but that the American people did not want a government takeover of health care in America:

Excerpts:

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Do you think health care reform is dead?

REP. PENCE: Well, I hope not. I really believe that we ought to take some bipartisan action to lower the cost of health insurance, and to lower the cost of health care. But I hope that the plan - the Democrats' initiative on Capitol Hill to introduce a government plan, a public option that would result in a government takeover of health care paid for with about \$800 billion in higher taxes is dead. Judging from the town hall meetings that I have had in Indiana and what we have seen around the country, I think there are millions of Americans who don't want to see a public option and don't want to see a government takeover.

SCARBOROUGH: Very quickly, what's the Republican alternative? What is the Republican plan you would like to see passed?

REP. PENCE: Well, it's not very different than what Harold Ford just described. I give a shout-out to my old friend Harold Ford sitting there. He made mention of the fact of malpractice reform and dealing with issues like preexisting conditions and lowering the cost of health insurance. Republicans believe that, in addition to tort reform, what we ought to do is allow Americans to purchase health insurance the way that Members of Congress can, the way all federal employees can, and that's to buy health insurance across state lines. To get out there and allow new insurance products to be created in a new competitive marketplace. In between allowing for nationwide health insurance products to be created, and allow people to be choosey shoppers in a truly competitive market and that plus responsible malpractice reform and I think you are pretty far away down the road toward curing what ails health insurance and health care in the country.